Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored scheme under following components:—

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive intervention for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness building among adolescents and sensitization for the AIDS Vaccine Initiative.
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

**World Bank assistance to Maharashtra for Medical Education**

243. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had, on May 14, 2001, asked the State Government of Maharashtra to send a proposal to seek World Bank assistance for strengthening the quality of medical education and improving the physical infrastructure of Government Medical Colleges and attached hospitals of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent the proposals in this regard to Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government of Maharashtra submitted a proposal in December, 2001 for strengthening the quality of medical education and improving the physical infrastructure of the Government medical colleges and attached hospitals for financial assistance of Rs. 550 crores from World Bank. The proposal was examined, in consultation with Department of Economic Affairs, Planning Commission and World Bank. Department of Economic Affairs has communicated that the present focus of World Bank funding for health sector is on disease control, primary health, family welfare and immunization, thus the proposal of Government of Maharashtra for strengthening the medical education is not in line with present priorities of World Bank funding for the Health Sector in India. The above views have been communicated to the State Government on 30th January, 2004.

**Apex Court's ruling on negligence of doctor leading to patient's disability/death**

244.SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently ruled that an error of judgement on the part of the doctor leading to a patient's permanent disability or death would not render the doctor liable to criminal proceedings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the said ruling has lead to **a** sense of panic and helplessness among the public;

.(d) if so, whether the Government would prefer a review petition against the judgement and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what other steps are proposed to allay the public misapprehensions in this regard?